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Government Surveillance- We're Being Watched

Professor Abby Hall Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how foreign policy led to mass surveillance of American citizens under the NSA.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/3MlOnekCY6I>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 1:
Government Surveillance: We're Being
Watched" by the Institute for Humane
Studies

Description

Professor Abby Hall Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how foreign policy led to mass surveillance of American citizens under the NSA.

Exercise:

Problem:

The first major government spying program in the US was in response to

- a. the Civil Rights Movement.
- b. domestic terrorism.
- c. the US Philippine War.
- d. protests against the Vietnam War.

Solution:

- c. the US Philippine War.

Militarization of Police in America

Professor Abby Hall Blanco explains how foreign intervention has contributed to police militarization in the US.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/q9HxzaCzSmM>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 2:
Militarization of Police in America" by the
Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Abby Hall Blanco explains how foreign intervention has contributed to police militarization in the US.

Exercise:

Problem: Which is an example of the boomerang effect?

- a. SWAT teams developing new surveillance technologies.
- b. Former military operatives bringing foreign technology back home.
- c. Former military operatives using technology developed for war for new uses at home.
- d. Old military laws being brought back into use.

Solution:

- c. Former military operatives using technology developed for war for new uses at home.

Torture & Police Brutality in America

Professor Abby Hall Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how many cases of torture and police brutality are linked to foreign policy. Warning: Graphic Content

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/JY8uMYHXXsw>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 3: Torture & Police Brutality in America by the Government"

Description

Professor Abby Hall Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how many cases of torture and police brutality are linked to foreign policy.

Warning: Graphic Content

Exercise:

Problem:

The torture inflicted on American citizens by John Burge and the Chicago police department in the 1970s is an example of what phenomenon?

- a. The military industrial complex
- b. The boomerang effect
- c. The knowledge problem
- d. Perverse incentives

Solution:

- b. The boomerang effect

The Boomerang Effect

Professor Abby Hall Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how foreign policy decisions impact domestic policies.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/zCgRBtko4YU>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 4: The Boomerang Effect" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Exercise:

Problem: What is the human capital channel?

- a. War destroys human capital.
- b. Skills and attitudes learned during war follow people home.
- c. War attracts people with strong human capital.
- d. There is no human capital in war.

Solution:

- b. Skills and attitudes learned during war follow people home.

What is the Military Industrial Complex?

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University defines the military industrial complex.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/lGmsnzjofv8>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 5: What is the Military Industrial Complex?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University defines the military industrial complex.

Exercise:

Problem:

How does the revolving door affect foreign policy decisions?

- a. Politicians have intimate knowledge of which military contractors work most efficiently.
- b. Frequent change of leadership at firms with defense contract makes the firms run inefficiently.
- c. Frequent changes in the legislators making important foreign policy decisions leads to greater accountability.
- d. Politicians making foreign policy decisions profit from the production of military equipment.

Solution:

- d. Politicians making foreign policy decisions profit from the production of military equipment.

The Free Market and the Military Industrial Complex

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains how the military industrial complex is fundamentally different from the free market.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/9FwK-UjlQnA>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 6: The Free Market and the Military Industrial Complex" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains how the military industrial complex is fundamentally different from the free market.

Exercise:

Problem:

How does the military industrial complex differ from the free market?

- a. Military contractors are non-profits.
- b. Military contractors are not private businesses, but are run by bureaucrats.
- c. The profits and losses of military contractors are dependent on their ability to navigate politics as opposed to using resources efficiently.
- d. Trick question! The military industrial complex is a free market phenomenon.

Solution:

- c. The profits and losses of military contractors are dependent on their ability to navigate politics as opposed to using resources efficiently.

Do Foreign Policy Benefits Outweigh the Cost?

Professor Abby Hall-Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how concepts from economics can help provide insight into foreign policy.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/dFH0ozSl_fc

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 8: Do Foreign Policy benefits outweigh the cost?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Abby Hall-Blanco of the University of Tampa explains how concepts from economics can help provide insight into foreign policy.

Exercise:

Problem: The knowledge problem is a

- a. constraint.
- b. opportunity cost.
- c. incentive.
- d. disincentive.

Solution:

- a. constraint.

Is Nation Building Worth The Cost?

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains why exporting democracy and nation building often fails.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/k0ATWuQ8t44>

"Foreign Policy Explained Ep. 9: Is Nation Building Worth The Cost?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains why exporting democracy and nation building often fails.

Exercise:

Problem:

Which of the following is NOT a reason countries partake in nation building?

- a. Foreign occupation provides an excellent opportunity for bureaucracies to increase their budgets.
- b. Wars are destabilizing and invading forces often engage in nation building to ensure that dangerous leaders don't take over.
- c. Politicians hope to spread democracy and prosperity through nation building.
- d. Politicians, soldiers, and military contractors are incentivized to work in the best interest of foreigners.

Solution:

- d. Politicians, soldiers, and military contractors are incentivized to work in the best interest of foreigners.

Does Humanitarian Aid Work?

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains why well intentioned, well-funded, state-led, humanitarian aid programs often fail.
https://www.youtube.com/embed/AGVavc2cs_A

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 10: Does Humanitarian Aid Work?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains why well intentioned, well-funded, state-led, humanitarian aid programs often fail.

Exercise:

Problem:

It's estimated that only 5% of the \$10 billion of foreign aid donated to provide disaster relief after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 went directly to Haitian people and organizations. Why did so little money go directly to relief efforts?

- a. Many of the donors who pledged money failed to actually pay.
- b. The relief money was funneled through NGOs and bureaucracies competing for a share of the aid.
- c. Much of the money was seized by corrupt politicians in Haiti.
- d. The money was used to build temporary housing that was never used.

Solution:

- b. The relief money was funneled through NGOs and bureaucracies competing for a share of the aid.

Should We Privatize National Defense?

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University questions whether national defense is really a public good.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/BrLMbwrW1lc>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep.11: Should We Privatize National Defense?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University questions whether national defense is really a public good.

Discussion Questions

In what ways is national defense like a public good? In what ways is it not?

What problems would be caused by privatizing national defense? What problems are caused by nationalizing it?

What do you think? Should national defense be privatized? Why or why not?

Can Humanitarians Help Economic Development?

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains why foreign aid is not enough to alleviate poverty.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/MOdMYR2VHaI>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 13: The Best Way To Lift Humanity Out Of Poverty" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University explains why foreign aid is not enough to alleviate poverty.

Exercise:

Problem:

Which of the following can be attributed to the knowledge problem?

- a. Economists not knowing the economic conditions that promote prosperity.
- b. Politicians lobbying for foreign aid instead of improving their own institutions.
- c. Humanitarians lacking the local knowledge to ensure that resources reach their intended recipients.
- d. The distortion of prices caused by foreign aid.

Solution:

- c. Humanitarians lacking the local knowledge to ensure that resources reach their intended recipients.

The Best Way To Lift Humanity Out Of Poverty

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University argues that the best way to help alleviate poverty in other countries is to promote open migration.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/5deAblQf5Dg>

"Foreign Policy Explained, Ep. 13: The Best Way To Lift Humanity Out Of Poverty" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Chris Coyne of George Mason University argues that the best way to help alleviate poverty in other countries is to promote open migration.

Exercise:

Problem:

Why does Professor Coyne argue that immigration is the best policy to help lift humanity out of poverty?

- a. Focusing on removing barriers to economic freedom within our own borders is more effective than trying to fix other countries.
- b. It will boost the GDP of the host country.
- c. Immigration allows policy makers to plan specific outcomes for the people they're trying to help than military intervention or foreign aid.
- d. Countries with more diverse populations are less likely to go to war.

Solution:

- a. Focusing on removing barriers to economic freedom within our own borders is more effective than trying to fix other countries.